

A CASE IN WHICH PREGNANCY OCCURRED AFTER THE MENOPAUSE.

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IN nearly all the published cases of pregnancy occurring late in life, persistence of menstruation beyond the usual time of the climacteric has been noted. Thus, there are cases of childbirth recorded in women whose ages range from fifty-five to sixty-five, and even seventy, years, who up to the date of conception have been menstruating more or less regularly; but to find conception taking place after the cessation of the menses, and the appearance of other signs of the menopause, is a much rarer event.

The following case has come under my notice. Mrs. B. commenced to menstruate when twelve years old, was married when twenty to a man a few months her senior, and by the time she was forty was the mother of twelve children. She never had a miscarriage.

From this time she had regularly recurring and painless periods, lasting three or four days, until her forty-sixth year, when the usual symptoms of the menopause appeared; menstruation ceased, all sexual feeling was lost, while her weight slightly increased, the growth of abdominal fat being very obvious.

Three years later, however, in August, 1901, she gave birth to her thirteenth child—a healthy male—being then in her forty-ninth year. After weaning the baby, when a few months old, the menses returned, the flow lasting one day only, being accompanied by severe pain and recurring regularly every four weeks. Sexual desire reappeared with the first period.

It would therefore seem probable that, after being functionless for over two years, this woman's ovaries again became active.

Mrs. B. and her husband—a working man, who has never had a day's illness in his life—have lived together continuously throughout their married days; their social conditions have undergone no change.

Lavasseur¹ recorded the case of a woman, aged fifty, who had a living child two years after the cessation of the menses. Another woman who had not menstruated for two years was attended in her confinement by Underhill²; she was in her forty-ninth year. Priou³ relates the following case: The woman, who began to menstruate at sixteen, married at twenty-eight, and had six children, the last being born when she was forty-eight; she suckled this child, and saw no catamenia afterwards. Twenty-four years later, when the woman was seventy-two, she menstruated at monthly intervals for six periods. Her menses then stopped, and in two months she gave birth to a two-months foetus. Depasse⁴ relates the case of a woman who ceased to menstruate at fifty, and at fifty-nine had a healthy baby, which she weaned on her sixtieth birthday. Pearson of Stalybridge recorded the fact that a woman had her tenth baby eighteen months after the entire cessation of the menses.

REFERENCES.

¹ *Gaz. Hebdomadaire*, 1873.

² *Amer. Journ. Obstet.*, 1879.

³ *Bulletin de la Soc. de Méd. d'Angers*, 1865.

⁴ *Gaz. de Gynéc.*, 1891.